

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 5, and 9 to more clearly define the features of those claims and cancels claim 15 to incorporate aspects of claim 15 into independent claim 1.

Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-14, and 16 are currently pending.

In the Final Office Action mailed March 25, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-9, and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Huang et al., A General Purpose Virtual Collaboration Room, IEEE, pages 1-10, 10/1999 (Huang). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Amended claim 1 recites a combination of features including, among other things, "a virtual object space providing access to a plurality of objects, each object having a set of functionality and being identifiable by a unique identifier provided by the virtual object space, and providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including an associations and transactions functionality for relating the plurality of objects and interaction between the plurality of objects, a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space, and a persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the plurality of objects, the generic object functionally including a first interface for applications using the plurality of objects and a second interface for services deploying the plurality of objects, the access being a virtual access provided using the unique identifier without physically storing the plurality of objects at the virtual object space."

On pages 5-6, the Examiner alleges that Huang at pages 2, 9, and FIGs. 1 and 5 discloses "a virtual object space" providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including "a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the

virtual object space," as recited in claim 1. However, a careful review of the passages cited by the Examiner reveals that those passages do not disclose or describe what the Examiner alleges. Moreover, the Examiner appears to modify and fill gaps in the Huang disclosure to correct its deficiencies. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that Huang's VCR (virtual collaboration room) framework "handles the object memory synchronization for the memory copies (copying, locking, and flushing)." Office Action, page 6. The Examiner also alleges that the VCR framework also "controls access to shared objects (thereby locking and controls deletion of copies) by clients via the coordinator and other assistants in the VCR server (see, FIG. 5: 'when a user exits the room, the client program exits from the user machine and the related assistant is accordingly removed from the room server,' page 9, first par)." Office Action, page 6. However, the Examiner is modifying Huang to perform functions not expressly disclosed by Huang.

Instead of the alleged teachings, Huang merely describes a room manager at a client rather than a virtual object space providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including (1) "an associations and transactions functionality" (2) "a distribution functionality" for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space, and a (3) "persistency functionality" for maintaining persistency of the plurality of objects, as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, although Huang's room manager may remove the "related assistant" when a user exits the room, the "shared objects" are not removed, as alleged by the Examiner, since other clients may be using those objects. Office Action, page 6. As such, the cited passages of Huang cannot possibly disclose a virtual object space providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including (1) "an

associations and transactions functionality" (2) "a distribution functionality" for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space, and (3) a "persistency functionality," much less "a virtual object space providing access to a plurality of objects, each object having a set of functionality and being identifiable by a unique identifier provided by the virtual object space, and providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including an associations and transactions functionality for relating the plurality of objects and interaction between the plurality of objects, a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space, and a persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the plurality of objects, the generic object functionality including a first interface for applications using the plurality of objects and a second interface for services deploying the plurality of objects, the access being a virtual access provided using the unique identifier without physically storing the plurality of objects at the virtual object space."

The Examiner also suggests that Huang at FIG. 5 discloses a first and second interface as recited in claim 1. Office Action, page 6. However, a careful review of Huang shows that accessing by the browser and accessing via assistant 1 (see Huang FIG. 5) does not constitute the specific structure of "a virtual object space ... the generic object functionality including a first interface for applications using the plurality of objects and a second interface for services deploying the plurality of objects," as recited in claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is not anticipated by Huang, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of claim 1 and claims 4 and 13, at least by reason of their dependency from independent claim 1, should be withdrawn.

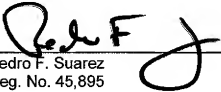
Claims 5 and 9, although of different scope, include features similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Claims 6-8 depend from claim 5. Claims 12, 14, and 16 depend from claim 9. For at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, claims 5-9 and 12-14 are not anticipated by Huang, and the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. No fee is believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-162/2003P00269US.

Respectfully submitted,

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